

South Carolina Broadband Technology and Communications Study Committee

105 Gressette Building  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Tuesday, November 20, 2007

Minutes

Members Present: Senator Luke A. Rankin, Chairman; Robert Barlow; Moss Bresnahan; James Bryant, PhD.; Janet Claggett, Ted Creech; Nanette Edwards, Esq.; David Goble; Miriam Hair; Senator Brad Hutto; Kaye Koonce, Esq.; Representative Dwight Loftis; Neil Mellen; Representative Phil Owens; and Gary Pennington, Esq.

Staff Present: Heather Anderson, Nancy Coombs, Ben Homeyer, and Jennifer Parrish Robinson.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. He informed the committee that after the last meeting, we received an offer from Connected Nation to do an initial inventory of where broadband is available in this State and that inventory was proceeding. The Chairman also reminded the Study Committee that we had expected to have an expert on spectrum issues to speak to the Committee; however, given that it would require the payment of travel expenses and preparation and presentation time, the Study Committee should take a formal vote on whether to have an expert speak at the next meeting on spectrum issues. Senator Hutto moved that the Committee hear about the various bands of the spectrum from Joanne Wilson who made a presentation at the Broadband in Cities and Towns conference sponsored by Benedict College. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, the motion passed by a vote of 8-4. Those voting in favor of the motion included: Robert Barlow, Janet Claggett, Ted Creech, Senator Brad Hutto, Kaye Koonce, Neil Mellen, Gary Pennington, and Senator Luke Rankin. Those voting in opposition to the motion included: Moss Bresnahan, Miriam Hair, Representative Dwight Loftis, and Representative Phil Owens.

Comments were received from Senator James Ritchie; Representative Cathy Harvin; Dr. Jabari Simama; Bill Brown and Jeff McCoy, Greenville County School District; William A. Byrd, PrivaCom Ventures; and John Warner; Swamp Fox L.L.C. The speakers encouraged the development of a statewide wireless broadband network.

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Study Committee would be December 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.